Jerry L. Litton

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI

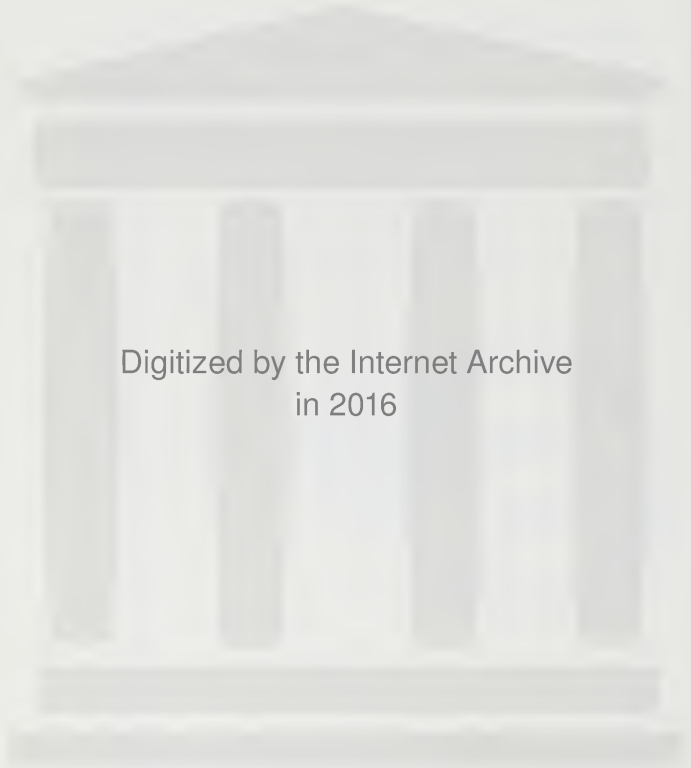
MEMORIAL ADDRESSES DELIVERED IN CONGRESS

UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA
LIBRARIES

47.1:L73

FLARE

UNIV. OF FLORIDA LIBS.
DOCUMENTS
DEPARTMENT
U.S. DEPOSITORY


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/memorialservices00wash_52

Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States, together with remarks presented in eulogy of

Jerry L. Litton

Late a Representative from Missouri

Ninety-fourth Congress
Second Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1976

E
940.8
.L55
D54
1976

Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing

Contents

	Page
Biography	v
Proceedings in the House	1
Announcement of death by the Honorable Richard H. Ichord, of Missouri	2
Committee appointed to attend funeral	5
Prayer by Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., Chaplain of the House of Representatives	1
Resolution of respect	4
Tributes by Representatives:	
Albert, Carl, of Oklahoma	22
Bauman, Robert E., of Maryland	15
Biaggi, Mario, of New York	21
Bolling, Richard, of Missouri	4, 6
Burlison, Bill D., of Missouri	14
Ginn, Bo, of Georgia	24
Hungate, William L., of Missouri	1, 13, 26
Articles from—	
LaBelle (Mo.) Star, August 11, 1976	32
Moberly (Mo.) Monitor-Index and Evening Democrat, August 11, 1976	30
St. Charles (Mo.) Banner-News, August 5, 1976	31
St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch	26
Tribute by Missouri State Representative Richard DeCoster.	30
Ichord, Richard H., of Missouri	2, 8
Articles from—	
Cuba (Mo.) Free Press, August 5, 1976	11
Rolla (Mo.) Daily News, August 5, 1976	9
Litany by Marcellus Bosworth, of Osage Beach, Mo	9
Jones, Ed, of Tennessee	25
McClory, Robert, of Illinois	19
Mink, Patsy T., of Hawaii	23
Morgan, Thomas E., of Pennsylvania	18
Randall, Wm. J., of Missouri	7
Rangel, Charles B., of New York	19
Sullivan, Leonor K., of Missouri	17
Symington, James W., of Missouri	12
Taylor, Gene, of Missouri	4, 20
Wampler, William C., of Virginia	16

	Page
Proceedings in the Senate	35
Committee appointed to attend funeral	38
Resolution of respect	35
Tributes by Senators:	
Byrd, Robert C., of West Virginia	38
Curtis, Carl T., of Nebraska	36
Dole, Robert, of Kansas	36
Eagleton, Thomas F., of Missouri	35, 36
Statement of Senator Stuart Symington, of Missouri	36
Mansfield, Mike, of Montana	36
Scott, Hugh, of Pennsylvania	35
Weicker, Lowell P., Jr., of Connecticut	38

Biography

JERRY LON LITTON was born on a farm near Lock Springs, Daviess County, Mo., May 12, 1937; educated in the public schools; graduated, Chillicothe High School, Chillicothe, Mo., 1955; B.S., agriculture journalism and economics, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., 1961; served in the U.S. Army National Guard, 1955–62; engaged in the scientific breeding of purebred cattle; vice president and co-owner, Litton Charolais Ranch, Inc.; State president, 1955–56, and national secretary, 1956–57, Future Farmers of America; elected as a Democrat to the 93d Congress, November 7, 1972; reelected to the 94th Congress, and served from January 3, 1973, until his death August 3, 1976, in a private aircraft crash at the Chillicothe Municipal Airport shortly after takeoff; was not a candidate in 1976 for reelection to the United States House of Representatives but was a successful candidate for nomination to the United States Senate; interment in Resthaven Memorial Gardens, Chillicothe, Mo.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FOR

JERRY L. LITTON

Proceedings in the House

WEDNESDAY, *August 4, 1976.*

The House met at 10 o'clock a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. Edward G. Latch, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Keep yourselves in the love of God.—Jude 21.

Almighty Father, who art above all and in all, whose love never fails and whose truth endures forever, make us aware of Thy presence as we worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Keep us true to ourselves at our best, giving us power to resist everything that is dishonest and helping us to so live that we can face our loved ones, our fellowmen, and Thee without fear or favor. Give us the will to do our work as well as we can do it and to accept our responsibilities cheerfully and with enthusiasm.

We are stunned by the passing of our beloved JERRY LITTON and his family. We thank Thee for him and for his devotion to his people and to our country. May the memory of his presence in our midst linger long in our hearts. Bless those who grieve with the comfort of Thy Spirit and give them the assurance Thou art with them all the way.

Guide us all with Thy truth and keep us in Thy love: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Mr. HUNGATE. Mr. Speaker, most men walk through life. JERRY LITTON ran. He ran hard; he ran fast; he ran far. No one who knew JERRY well doubts that he had not gone as far as he could go when last night's tragic accident cut short his career.

A prosperous farmer, a Charolais cattleman, a distinguished Congressman, an accomplished politician—everything JERRY LITTON did he did well.

He approached public service with a zeal and a dedication which justified the faith his Sixth District constituents placed in him and which earned him deserved recognition not only in Missouri but in Congress.

It is sad and ironic that he died on the night of the greatest victory in his life. He died as Missouri Democrats chose him to carry their standard in this fall's Senate race.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join all of his colleagues in the Congress and all Missourians in mourning the loss of this committed public servant. That loss is only compounded by the death of his wife and their children. JERRY LITTON will be missed in Missouri and in Washington, and we can only hope that we may lift our efforts and better serve our Nation because of his exemplary record of service.

Mr. ICHORD. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I join with my colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Hungate), in announcing to the House the tragic airplane accident which has just taken the life of our colleague, JERRY LITTON, and, as well, his entire family consisting of his wife, Sharon; his son, Scott; and his daughter, Linda.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege of serving in public office for 24 years, and during that time I have met many people who have mapped out a political career and who were possessed with a strong and determined desire to serve the American public. When I first met JERRY LITTON some 20-odd years ago, he was, I believe, at that time a high school student or, at most, he was in the first or second year of college. He was working in the campaign of the senior Senator from Missouri, Stuart Symington, the father of our colleague, Jimmy Symington.

At that time JERRY LITTON asked me how he could best serve the public. At that tender age, as a teenager working for Senator Symington, in his campaign for either the Presidency or the U.S. Senate, he had come to the conclusion that the best way to be successful in his efforts to obtain public office was to first be successful in business. He pursued a very successful business career, with the idea in mind of later pursuing a public career.

I will state to the Members of the House that the campaign which he just conducted in Missouri was a classic one that will be studied for many years by men and women who aspire to hold public office. In the primary he defeated a former two-term

Governor, Governor Hearnes, and our colleague, Jimmy Symington, by the latest figures with 53 percent of the vote, enjoying a share of the votes approximately equal to that received by the second candidate, Governor Hearnes, and the third candidate our colleague, Jim Symington. The final returns are not yet available and the results could be different but victory was his.

Mr. Speaker, all of JERRY's ambitions were in his grasp but yet never realized.

This is not the first time that a light-plane accident has taken the life of one of our Members, and I doubt if it will be the last. As one who flies light airplanes, along with several of my colleagues in the House, as an effective means of communicating with my constituents, I must say that it is just one of those things that happens. Personally, I do not consider light airplane flying any more dangerous than flying a commercial airline, because you are taking off and landing many, many times in short-hop general aviation flying. Yet it is a hazard that many of us in this House and in the Senate face.

Mr. Speaker, in light of this great tragedy which faces us today, and in an attempt to console and perhaps admonish the Members of this House, I can only use the words of one of America's greatest poets, William Cullen Bryant, in his famous poem written at the tender age of 17 years, "Thanatopsis":

> So live, that when thy summons comes to join
> The innumerable caravan which moves
> To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
> His chamber in the silent halls of death,
> Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
> Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
> By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
> Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch
> About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

JERRY LITTON approached the unknown hereafter in a similar manner.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot adequately express the great and tragic loss, nor the grief that holds me personally and grips the Litton family as well as JERRY's colleagues and the entire State of Missouri.

Mr. TAYLOR of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret the tragic and untimely death of my friend and colleague, JERRY LITTON, and his family.

JERRY and I entered the Congress together in 1973 and, while we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, we were good friends and always worked closely together on matters concerning the people of our State.

JERRY was a good Congressman. A strong and able advocate for his point of view. He was knowledgeable of the issues and a hard worker. He was a staunch supporter of the farmer and was an eloquent speaker in behalf of the preservation of the family farm.

He was innovative and imaginative. His "Dialogue With Litton" television programs were well received around the State of Missouri because of their unique format and wide range of subject matter.

Certainly no greater tribute could be paid to JERRY than the overwhelming victory that was accorded him by the people of Missouri when they cast more votes for his candidacy than the two distinguished and well-known Missourians who contested him in the Democratic primary election for nomination to the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, August 3, 1976.

His presence will be missed in the House of Representatives and by the constituents he served so well.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to his mother and father who mourn his loss.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. Bolling).

Mr. BOLLING. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1461

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable JERRY LITTON, a Representative from the State of Missouri.

Resolved, That a committee of 80 Members of the House with such Members of the Senate as may be joined be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McFall). The Chair appoints as members of the funeral delegation the following Members on the part of the House: Mr. Bolling, Mr. O'Neill, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Randall, Mr. Ichord, Mr. Hungate, Mr. Burlison of Missouri, Mr. Clay, Mr. Symington, Mr. Taylor of Missouri, Mr. Poage, Mr. Diggs, Mr. Findley, Mr. Harsha, Mr. Udall, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Phillip Burton, Mr. de la Garza, Mr. Foley, Mr. Vigorito, Mr. Rees, Mr. Jones of North Carolina, Mr. Wampler, Mr. Biester, Mr. Gude.

Mrs. Heckler of Massachusetts, Mr. Railsback, Mr. Stuckey, Mr. Whalen, Mr. Dan Daniel, Mr. Mann, Mr. Sebelius, Mr. Jones of Tennessee, Mr. Melcher, Mr. Bergland, Mr. Dellums, Mr. McKinney, Mr. Mathis, Mr. Mazzoli, Mr. Peyser, Mr. Thone, Mr. Brown of California, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Breckenridge, Mr. Robert W. Daniel, Jr., Mr. Ginn, Mr. Johnson of Colorado, Mr. Madigan, Mr. Rose, Mr. Symms.

Mr. Thornton, Mr. Baldus, Mr. Bedell, Mr. English, Mr. Fithian, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Hagedorn, Mr. Harkin, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hightower, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Jenrette, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Krebs, Mr. McHugh, Mrs. Meyner, Mr. Moore, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Nowak, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Simon, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Fauntroy.

The Clerk will report the remaining resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, August 5, 1976, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Mr. BOLLING. Mr. Speaker, our late colleague, JERRY LITTON, was born near Lock Springs, Daviess County, Mo., May 12, 1937. He attended schools in Lock Springs and Chillicothe and graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture journalism in 1961.

As a young man he was exceptionally active in both agriculture and politics. He served as Missouri State president and national secretary of the Future Farmers of America and as president of the Livingston County Young Democrats and the University of Missouri Young Democrats.

In association with his father, JERRY LITTON concentrated his tremendous energies to the highly successful breeding of Charolais cattle and edited a cattlemen's trade journal devoted to Charolais breeding. And before his election to the Congress, he served on the Governor's advisory council on agriculture and the Missouri State Council on Education and was a founder of the Agriculture Council of America.

On November 7, 1972, JERRY LITTON was elected to the 93d Congress. He immediately won election by his Democratic colleagues to the House Committee on Agriculture. On winning reelection to the 94th Congress, he became chairman of the Subcommittee on Forests of the Agriculture Committee.

As a candidate for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senator from Missouri, JERRY LITTON was the clear winner in the Democratic primary on August 3 when the plane in which he was flying crashed and killed him, his wife, and their two children. His wife was the former Sharon Summerville. Their children were Linda Lorraine, 13, and Scott Stuart, 12.

In addition to being a stark family tragedy the death of Congressman LITTON is a loss to the ranks of those of us who work in public service.

He left a highly successful private career to devote his single-minded determination to public life. His record in Congress reflected his intensity of effort and his successful campaign for the Senate nomination demonstrated he could attract the loyalty of a host of followers throughout the State.

Mrs. Bolling and I extend our deepest sympathy to JERRY's parents, and to all the surviving relatives of this terrible tragedy.

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, the plane crash at Chillicothe, Mo., last Tuesday evening, August 3, brought our Missouri primary election day to a tragic conclusion. What was to have been a victory celebration at the Plaza Inn in Kansas City that primary night was very sadly transformed into a wake when the word of the death of the entire Jerry Litton family was finally confirmed.

The sad, sad fact, is that he died before he could taste the greatest triumph of his brief life. I know we all hope that before that plane went down he realized he was not only out in front of the race, but he had learned that he was almost the certain winner on that primary day.

JERRY LITTON's life is a story of success. His family suffered a lot of reverses during his childhood. While he was a youth, their home burned and their entire herd of hogs were wiped out by a disease. They faced impoverishment and JERRY LITTON knew what poverty was; but he helped his family. He leased some land on his own and was a successful farmer long before his successful Charolais cattle ranch venture.

The record will show that our colleague succeeded in almost everything he tried. He was a radio announcer. He earned fees by speaking to agricultural groups.

The Litton Charolais ranch was a great success. One bull commanded a price of $168,000 for a half interest.

JERRY LITTON was a boy who was born in a house without any plumbing or any electricity and yet sold his ranch in 1974 because as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, he did not want the appearance of any possible conflict of interest. It seems to me here is an excellent example, yes a perfect example, of the man's personal integrity.

In Congress, we know JERRY was somewhat of an independent, and this may have displeased some of his fellow Members of Congress but greatly pleased his constituents.

He started "Dialogue With Litton" because he said he was determined to bring Government to the people.

Well, like all else he did, this was a success. As many as 1,700 attended one "Dialogue With Litton" on the same afternoon as a pro football game in Kansas City.

JERRY LITTON was a human dynamo, a man with incredible stamina. He was a hard worker. He drove his staff hard, but he

was really not a driver. He was a leader. In fact, his staff could not keep up with the long hours that nearly always ran into 18-hour days, and during the campaign as many as 19- or 20-hour days.

The death of JERRY LITTON is a grievous loss to our State. In the judgment of all of us in the delegation, he was on his way to an impressive term in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, may his good soul be at peace and at rest. Margaret and myself extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Charley Litton, JERRY's parents, and to Mr. and Mrs. Summerville, the parents of Sharon Litton.

Mr. ICHORD. Mr. Speaker, with deep mourning and still in shock we buried our colleague and friend, JERRY LON LITTON. JERRY was young when death took him, his wonderful family, and his pilot and pilot's young son in a tragic airplane accident on the eve of his greatest political victory. He was young and vital and had so much yet to offer and to give to his friends, to his colleagues, and to his much beloved State of Missouri. His death marks a great tragedy and brings heavy hearts and sadness to us all.

I had known JERRY since he was a young boy eager to serve his State and possessed of a particular love and understanding of rural America and its greatness and hardship. In his all too brief life JERRY's determination and hard work brought him not only great achievement in his first love of farming but also brought him to this House in 1973 with a resounding 78.9 percent of the vote of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District, where he continued his effective work on behalf of rural America through his outstanding service on the House Agriculture Committee.

With JERRY's untimely death on August 3 on the very eve of his great triumph at the polls in Missouri's Democratic primary race for the Senate, rural Americans throughout this Nation lost one of their strong voices in the House. Throughout the State of Missouri, the sorrow over JERRY's death is great. We mourn his death and the death of his beautiful wife, Sharon, and two young children, Linda and Scott. Death has taken these friends from us, and we can now but thank God for that brief time He shared them with us and try to carry JERRY's dreams and memory on.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a litany by Marcellus Bosworth of Osage Beach, Mo., written in memoriam to JERRY LITTON. I would also share with JERRY's friends and colleagues three comments from papers in JERRY's State of Missouri.

IN MEMORIAM: LITANY FOR JERRY LITTON

(By Marcellus Bosworth, Poet Laureate of Osage Beach, Mo.)

At once—and in an awful moment's breath,
He met his instant rendezvous with Death.
Gone, gone the hopes and dreams he vainly planned
To raise the aspirations of a waiting land,
Caught in the vortex of an unfair fate
That even God in horror must berate,
His love, his progeny—all whom he cherished most
Became part of the angel-host
Around The Great White Throne.

Small wonder fellow-creatures weep, bemoan
The senseless crash, the utter loss that came
To rob him of a well-deserving fame,
And erase from off the monument of Time
One destined for greatness long, before his prime.

Yet shall the torch he carried guide us when,
In moments of despair, we call to mind
The high esteem he favored for all men
And, unashamed and unafraid, left lesser things behind.

[From the Rolla (Mo.) Daily News, Aug. 5, 1976]

THE EDITOR SAYS

(By Edward W. Sowers)

The tragic death of Congressman JERRY LITTON and his family Tuesday night will go down in the political history of Missouri and the Nation as one of the most regrettable and inexplicable tragedies ever to happen.

LITTON had the Democratic primary election to the U.S. Senate won—the polls were closed and early tallies of the votes placed him in the lead to stay—and then, suddenly and incredibly, the airplane carrying him and his lovely wife and their young son and daughter to a victory party crashed, carrying all of them, including his faithful pilot and young son, to a fiery death.

The ironical tragedy at Chillicothe sent shock waves of disbelief and then sadness across Missouri and the Nation. It stunned thousands—those who didn't vote for the man as well as those who did—on this "morning after" the election,

giving all of us perhaps a selfish sense of being cheated out of something important in the political future of this harried republic.

[From the Rolla (Mo.) Daily News, Aug. 5, 1976]

RECALLS LITTON'S LAST DAY

(By Matt Krueger)

(NOTE.—Matt Krueger, a 22-year-old political science graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, spent the last 3 months traveling with JERRY LITTON every day as his personal aid. Here is his account of his last day with LITTON Tuesday.)

CHILLICOTHE, MO.—We were really excited on Tuesday. We were in St. Joe (St. Joseph) early in the day; went over to the newspaper, hit the shopping centers and tried to get people out to vote. It seemed like everybody we talked to said they had already voted and they had voted for JERRY.

JERRY kept saying that everyone got behind him and he just couldn't believe it. We had known 2 or 3 weeks that there was every indication we would win.

We drove back to Chillicothe from St. Joe earlier than anticipated; drove out to the ranch, went in and had ice cream and cake and everything. JERRY had me hook him up to an inhalator device for treating an inflammation in his throat because he had gotten a cold over the weekend. I think he was pretty well over the cold, but it was a psychological sort of thing. He wanted his vocal cords to be ready.

Then he went in to the bedroom about 4:30 (p.m.) and slept till 7:15. Sherry (LITTON's wife, Sharon) woke him up and let him talk on the phone. I talked to Sherry and explained the arrangements and I said, "See you in Kansas City." That was the last time I saw her.

I drove (family friends) Maxine Lamb and her husband Paul (manager of the Litton ranch) down to campaign headquarters.

I was playing with Scott Tuesday afternoon. Scott (LITTON's 12-year-old son) was really excited and everything. He was excited about taking a plane ride. We were sitting in front of a TV and he had a friend over. We were joking about how all the girls in Chillicothe thought Scott was so cute because his dad was running for Senator.

The family was extremely close. JERRY and his dad worked together. They prospered and played together. He called his mom and dad just about every day to touch base. They're tremendously strong people. They're (his parents) going to take it pretty hard I think. Linda (LITTON's daughter) was 13. She was a cutie, just like her mom.

I think the thing JERRY was really concerned with Tuesday was how strong the Democratic ticket would be in Missouri in November with (Jimmy) Carter at the head of the ticket. He was really looking forward to campaigning against (GOP Senate candidate John) Danforth. He thought it would be a very issues oriented campaign.

See, I was supposed to be on that plane. I was making all the arrangements. That was my job.

I talked to Sherry about 6:30 and she told me Charley and Mildred (LITTON's parents) had already left. That left seven of us and I didn't think it would be a good idea to put that many on the plane. I had Charley's car and I said I'll just drive Maxine and Paul down to Kansas City.

We got to Kansas City close to 9:30. I called my grandmother to tell her I had returned safely because we had been gone 3 days. We were there at the campaign headquarters. We were taking phone calls and getting results. Then John Ashford came in and made the announcement.

I jumped into a campaign car and came up here. We were listening to the radio. They announced that LITTON was declared the winner. That kind of hit me. But there was no time to get emotional last night. It hasn't hit me yet.

We became close friends in that time we were traveling together. I don't know how many times we were at plant gates at 5 a.m. and then we were driving in the car late at night by ourselves. He confided in me and I confided some things in him. I never met a more personable guy. He kind of reminded me of Bobby Kennedy almost. There was just a charisma about him.

I don't know how hokey it sounds, but he just believed in the people of Missouri. He believed in the people and felt that he had a message to communicate.

[From the Cuba (Mo.) Free Press, Aug. 5, 1976]

THE "DIALOGUE" IS OVER

JERRY LITTON, 39 years old, Congressman from Missouri's Sixth District, winner of the recent battle for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senator, is dead. He won the election he wanted so badly, and lost his life almost immediately afterward. Also lost was his attractive young wife and their two children. All died in a fiery airplane crash on their way to a victory celebration.

This is a great loss to our State and our Nation. This young man was destined for greatness in the political arena. There is no guessing how far he might have ascended except for this tragedy.

He was cut short in the very hour of victory. He had battled so hard to achieve this. He rose from a practical unknown to a man in which the great majority of Democratic Party voters selected him over much better known names, such as Symington and Hearnes.

He had a style, an appeal which attracted the average voter. He had a broad based appeal, with the exception of the metropolitan political hacks, which he disdained to the astonishment of his opponents who said "you can't win without the support of the big city ward heelers." But, he did. Yet, he lost.

LITTON's greatest appeal to the people was his openness, his willingness—no, his demand—to conduct himself and his political activities in open view, before the eyes of the people he served. He carried this philosophy into his campaign—

even inviting his opponents to sit in on his political strategy planning after announcing his entrance into the senatorial race.

He was famous for his innovative televised "Dialogue With Litton." This was very popular with the people of Kansas City, where he held this in an open forum before the people who attended. He later conducted many of what he termed "mini-dialogues" around the State of Missouri, which were enthusiastically received—again by the people. All these dialogues were so refreshing. How long has it been since we had a candidate who would open himself to the public in such a manner? How long will it be again until another man of LITTON's calibre and his attributes of integrity, intelligence, and common sense appear on the stage of politics?

It is difficult to write about LITTON in the past tense, for we had grown to admire the man a great deal. We had supported another underdog, Warren Hearnes, and he won. Again we supported an underdog, and he won—politically—but he lost his life.

He will be greatly missed and a vacuum is left for many of us who were grasping out for a fresh breath of air in politics, as JERRY LITTON appeared to be.

A bright young star on the political horizon is now but a passing comet.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. Speaker, we pause now to reflect on a brilliant life suddenly shadowed, on glowing hopes shattered, and an all-American family saddened beyond the power of mortal word or thought to repair.

I knew little about the private life of our lamented colleague other than the few moments of laughter we shared together, and the serene and graceful presence of his beautiful wife. His public life I knew quite well. His initiatives—in energy, resourcefulness, and success—moved across the field of Missouri politics like one of those great combines that work our wheat country, mowing and leveling the ground before him. But before the reaping came the planning and the sowing.

JERRY LITTON planned his political career with the care and foresight of the most seasoned farmer, forecasting with unerring accuracy what the changing seasons would bring. There was no insurmountable obstacle to his steadfast pursuit of the harvest of voter support which came so bountifully to him. It took sustained hard work, great care, consummate skill, and all the virtues of the spirit that bring success to outstanding politicians as they do to outstanding farmers.

What can be said when men of the land have worked it so diligently from dawn to dusk only to have the fruits of their labor scattered by the intervention of the one power that is beyond us all? Tornado, drought, and flooding rains have

broken many a golden dream and many a stout heart. We almost grow used to it. But what can be said of this unspeakable tragedy? There are human disasters for which there is no mortal relief. All the powers of man and his lofty governments are like will-o-the-wisps in the winds of God. We can only ask each in our own way what would God have us do? What remedial action can we take? What comfort can we offer and to whom?

Like many of you I went to Chillicothe last Friday. There, with you, I met surely the bravest and staunchest of God's children, JERRY and Sherry LITTON's families. There in the living room of their home they stood and received us. They thanked us for coming—thanked us for coming—when it was their gracious fortitude that deserved and won the reverent respect of every person present. So we shook hands, embraced, and went on, as they must go on. As we all must go on calling on the might of God to sustain us, drawing on the beauty and grandeur of that Missouri countryside to refresh us, knowing that what was built there by the Litton family remains serenely constant just as his public dedication remains vivid on our minds.

Though there is no room in our hearts for humor now—we will remember, by and by, that our departed friend gave of this quality in generous measure to audiences and crowds all across this land. It was the balancing factor—and the cup that held his fervent messages. There were few among us who shared his gifts of expression and projection. But we all enjoyed them. And we will miss them. Beyond that, all who knew JERRY and Sherry and those beautiful children will know heaven has been enriched at our expense.

Mr. HUNGATE. Mr. Speaker, Missouri is proud of what it produces. It was an outstanding Missouri Congressman from the southern part of the State, Mr. Vandiver, who boasted that he came from the State which produces corn, cotton, cocklebburs, and Democrats.

We are certainly proud of JERRY LITTON and the work he has done and the leadership he has afforded in the Democratic Party, and indeed, beyond that, because people across party lines followed and treasured his leadership. Independents, Republicans, people throughout our State, are poorer tonight and mourn the loss of JERRY LITTON and his family. He brought us,

as has been indicated, humor. He brought energy. He brought a zeal to serve his country. May we all be guided by that example in developing those qualities. The sacrifice which he made and which his family made is something on which I would dwell and something on which I hope the country will reflect, because it is not the Member alone who makes some sacrifice to serve his country. The Members volunteer. But Sherry was at his side. Sherry was an official of the campaign organization and worked with him. We have seen her at meetings. And anyone who has had the privilege of filling out all of the forms which are now required for elective office knows that her part was a difficult one and one that was valuable.

I do not know what greater hostage any family could give to fortune than their child; the parents of JERRY LITTON gave their son, their only son, their daughter-in-law and their only grandchildren.

It has been said that patriots are those who love America enough to see her as a model for mankind. JERRY LITTON saw this country as a model for the world. He left a mark high enough for those who come after to aim at, in the hope of improving our country and ourselves.

Mr. BURLISON of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a difficult day for all Members of this body. It is hard enough when an aged Member who has lived his life and made his contribution, is without warning taken from our midst. The grief is compounded manifold when a young man in his prime is taken.

If there are any in this arena of national politics who are here because they cannot be a success anywhere else, JERRY LITTON could not be counted among them. Before he arrived here he had already left his indelible brand in the cattle industry. He had established a unique mastery in the breeding and development of the Charolais cattle herd.

Reaching the top of this profession at the age of 35, it was now time to assert supremacy in a different, but equally challenging field, that of national governmental leadership. JERRY and Sharon soon climbed the ladder of political success with a meticulous tenacity that is the envy of all of us of the political breed.

Early on the evening of Tuesday last, before he had attained his 40th birthday, Representative JERRY LITTON stood on the threshold of ascendancy to a seat in the U.S. Senate. But you and I know that would not have been the ultimate pedestal of his success. Before this tragedy we thought we saw promise and potential without boundary in this man. Now as we pause and reflect through the maze of our shock and despair we know that our earlier predispositions were correct; that but for this intercession by providence, which we do not understand, JERRY LITTON was indeed destined for greatness.

How does one say goodbye to a departed political brother? Many of us symbolically did this last Friday in Chillicothe. There we joined the family and friends and constituents of JERRY and Sharon and we all in unison said "goodbye." My colleagues and I were engulfed in the humble love and decency of an extraordinary people. Here perhaps was the explanation for why JERRY and Sharon and Scott and Linda were so special. They came from good stock.

Mr. Speaker, the world goes on. The Sixth Congressional District of Missouri must continue to move forward. JERRY and Sharon would have it no other way. As we all advance through the years and continue our responsibilities here, we will be ever mindful that our lives have been enriched, and our State and Nation blessed, by the contributions and accomplishments of JERRY and Sharon LITTON.

Mr. BAUMAN. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my own personal sense of loss to the comments made by the distinguished Members of the Missouri delegation.

It may seem somewhat improbable that the paths of the gentleman from Maryland and the late gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LITTON) should have crossed in any personal sense, due to our different views, but twice within the last year and a half the gentleman from Maryland had occasion to join the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LITTON) in his travels. In my own State, on one occasion when he spoke to our annual Maryland agricultural dinner, and again when we both flew on a plane trip from Washington to Salisbury which is in my district, where he spoke to the Delmarva Poultry Institute. On both of these occasions the crowds numbered perhaps 2,000 or more people.

The gentleman from Missouri spoke with a fervor about the problems of agriculture and, in fact, laced his stories with witticisms and jokes, some of which the gentleman from Maryland plagiarized on later occasions. They were very humorous and very much concerned with the earthy farm life that the people in both of our districts share.

I also came to know the gentleman from Missouri here on the floor. I do not suppose there is much more that any of us in the House can say about a colleague after he passes, under these circumstances, except to say that in this particular tribute, we knew him as a good, dedicated, and conscientious person, though we might not always have agreed with his stand on certain issues.

On this particular occasion I did not want it to pass without expressing the fact that the sense of loss of the people of Missouri is also felt on both sides of the aisle and in other States beyond the borders of Missouri.

Mr. WAMPLER. Mr. Speaker, it was with a feeling of great personal loss that I learned of the untimely death of our late and beloved colleague, the gentleman from Missouri (JERRY LITTON). As the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, I suppose I was in somewhat of a unique position to observe and to appreciate the many fine attributes of this great man.

Mr. Speaker, JERRY LITTON made contributions to our committee, as he did in other areas of concern here in the Congress.

His unique agricultural background was very helpful to our committee in trying to find workable answers to many of the problems that plague the producers of food and fiber in our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker, it has already been alluded to that the gentleman from Missouri (JERRY LITTON) was an outstanding spokesman for agriculture.

I know that in my own State of Virginia he delivered an outstanding address before the Virginia Agribusiness Council, one of the most prestigious groups in our State. Even to this day, I still have many of my friends in Virginia commenting on his outstanding appearance on that occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I wish that words of mine would be adequate on this occasion to express my personal loss. I know that words

appear shallow at a time like this, but a wise man once said that we never forget a person unless our hearts forget his greatness.

Mr. Speaker, if those words be true—and I am sure they are—those of us who were privileged to know JERRY LITTON will never forget him.

Mr. Speaker, I also recall another occasion when I was privileged to travel to Brazil with a number of my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture, and JERRY LITTON was in our party. I suppose that this was another rare opportunity that we sometimes get to know our colleagues better as we are privileged to travel from time to time, both in this country and perhaps abroad.

I think on that occasion I came to have an even greater appreciation for JERRY LITTON's talents and for his ability, particularly in the area in which he perhaps had the greatest expertise—that of breeding livestock.

I know that on this trip to Brazil he was very helpful in our discussions with the Minister of Agriculture and with those who were concerned about developing a viable livestock industry in that great country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues of the Missouri delegation the expression of deep sympathy, not only of the Virginia delegation, but of all the people in Virginia who knew and respected JERRY LITTON.

I extend to JERRY's mother and father and to the other members of his family and to the family of his lovely wife my deepest sympathy, and I hope that God's blessing will be upon them during this trying time and that they can face the future knowing that JERRY LITTON was a great man who lived a good life.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure they have many pleasant memories to sustain them during this very trying time.

Mrs. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, the passing of a good friend is always a matter of deep sorrow, whether the person be young or old, robust or ill, prominent or obscure—a good friend is a jewel we treasure in a secure place in our heart.

JERRY LITTON was a good friend to all of the Members of the Missouri delegation in the Congress and to many, many of our colleagues from other States. And we shall all miss him greatly.

But the circumstances of his death were so shocking and incomprehensible that we are stunned, dumbfounded.

Here was a young man of 39, a driving force and rising star in Missouri and national politics, with an outstanding record already made in less than 4 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, the overwhelming victor in a hardfought campaign for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, struck down in the moment of his greatest triumph—along with his loving wife and two young children. Tragedy ended not only a brilliant political career which had unlimited horizons, but his entire family as well.

This event summons each of us to call upon our deepest religious feeling for some understanding of the mystery of God's will in this great tragedy which claimed the lives of JERRY and Sharon, and their two children, Linda and Scott.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way of knowing how far JERRY LITTON would have gone in politics and in national life had he been spared. His election to the Senate at the age of 39 was a probability in our Democratic State. At the age of 19, he had been State president of the Future Farmers of America; by the age of 20, he was national secretary of the FFA; by the age of 17 he was already active in politics as president of his county's Young Democrats and 6 years later he headed the Young Democrats at the University of Missouri. JERRY, as we all know and remember, was a "ball of fire" in the House, active, concerned, imaginative, resourceful, and effective as a legislator from his earliest days here.

Missouri has lost one of out most promising political leaders and the Congress and the Nation have lost a man of unlimited potential. We mourn the passing of a good friend and pray for understanding of this terrible tragedy which has affected us all so deeply.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Speaker, the tragic news of the death of JERRY LITTON, his wife, and two children comes as a shock to us all.

In his service in the House which began in the 93d Congress, JERRY quickly won the respect of his colleagues as a likable and hard-working Member. An expert on agricultural matters, he

became chairman of the Agriculture Committee's Forests Subcommittee and instrumental in new legislation in this field.

The untimely loss of this talented young man has cut short a promising career which would have been of outstanding benefit to out Nation. Equally saddening are the deaths of those in his family.

May the Lord's blessings be on them all.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it was with heartfelt grief that I read last week of the tragic death of Congressman JERRY LITTON and his family. We all know that Mr. LITTON was a Congressman sensitive to the needs and concerns of the people of his district. As a result of this and his distinguished career in this House, he quickly earned the respect of his fellow Members, and more importantly, of the people of his home State, Missouri, for whom he did so much. We will all miss him dearly.

Mr. McCLORY. Mr. Speaker, I join in this final tribute to JERRY LITTON, whose tragic and untimely death has shocked every Member of this House.

No Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, to my experience, brought more experienced judgment on issues relating to agriculture than our late colleague, Congressman JERRY LITTON.

Mr. Speaker, I recall distinctly the hearings conducted by our Judiciary Committee on the subject of the causes of rising food costs, a subject of vital importance to every American family. Congressman LITTON's thorough knowledge of all of the elements which contribute to the cost of food provided the most balanced and useful testimony which our Judiciary Committee received.

Mr. Speaker, in my view, Congressman LITTON in his service to his constituents and to the Nation brought a wealth of experience and knowledge and displayed objectivity and a deep sense of conscientiousness in his important legislative service.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Doris, had occasion to become well acquainted with Sharon Litton and they worked together on activities associated with our congressional lives here in Washington. I am convinced that Sharon Litton provided stalwart

support to her husband, contributed to his legislative work and to his successful political campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, the tragedy was even deepened by the joy, anticipation, and hope that preceded the airplane crash that claimed the lives of Congressman and Mrs. LITTON and their two children as well as the pilot of the aircraft, Paul Rupp, and Mr. Rupp's son.

Mr. Speaker, by winning the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate in Missouri, JERRY LITTON had achieved his party's backing for a campaign for the U.S. Senate seat he wanted so much, and the family was en route from their Chillicothe home to celebrate that triumph in Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, my wife, Doris, and I extend our deepest sympathies to the parents of both JERRY and Sharon LITTON. While theirs is a personal loss, we in the Congress, in our own behalf and in behalf of the entire Nation, have undergone a loss of a colleague and a respected and capable representative of the people.

Mr. TAYLOR of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, we all mourn the death of our friend and colleague JERRY LITTON and his family. He, his wife, Sharon, and children, Scott and Linda, were struck down at a moment when he had attained a goal for which he had fought long and hard: nomination by his party to become the nominee for U.S. Senator.

Our condolences also go to the family of his pilot, Paul Rupp, Jr., and his son Paul Rupp III.

JERRY and I entered the Congress together in 1973 and while we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, we were good friends and always worked closely together on matters concerning the people of our State.

JERRY was a good Congressman. He was a strong and able advocate for his point of view. He was knowledgeable on the issues and a hard worker. He was a staunch supporter of the farmer and an eloquent speaker in behalf of the preservation of the family farm.

I do not know of anyone in our State, or for that matter the Nation as a whole, who cared more for the soil than did JERRY LITTON.

A farmer himself, JERRY was a successful cattle breeder. As a youth he was very active in the Future Farmers of America, serving as president of the Missouri chapter and later became the national secretary of that organization.

As a Congressman, JERRY's every minute was working for the farmer, relating to the consumer the importance of his work, and constantly describing how one was important to the other and how it was important for the farmer to be successful if the consumer was to have the food and fiber needed to feed and clothe his family.

He was innovative and imaginative. His "Dialogue With Litton" television programs were well received around the State of Missouri because of their unique format and wide range of subject matter.

Certainly no greater tribute could be paid to JERRY than the overwhelming victory that was accorded him by the people of Missouri when they cast nearly as many votes for his candidacy as the two other distinguished and well-known Missourians who contested him in the Democratic primary election for nomination to the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, August 3, 1976.

His presence will be missed in the House of Representatives and by the constituents he served so well.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to his mother and father who mourn his loss and to the parents of his wife—Sharon—Mr. and Mrs. Summerville.

Mr. BIAGGI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our colleague and friend, JERRY LITTON, whose untimely death stunned us all. We saw a bright, successful young man's life snatched from him on the night he was about to share his single greatest political triumph, winning the Democratic nomination to become Senator from Missouri.

JERRY LITTON may not have been in Congress for that long, but while he was here he made his presence known. Many of us were proud to call JERRY a friend. He was one of the brightest young men in the Congress and his future seemed unlimited. He was an extremely conscientious Member, and I recall reading with great interest his "Dear Colleague" letters which he would send to discuss some of the many fine legislative proposals he offered while here.

The shock of JERRY LITTON's death will not fade away. Yet it is not for us to dwell on the tragedy; let us instead remember what JERRY LITTON gave to the House and to the people of Missouri. He gave his all, and that is about as fine a legacy as any man can hope to achieve.

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, I join fully in the many tributes and accolades paid to our late colleague, JERRY LITTON, over these past several days. Like all of you I was shocked beyond words by the tragic accident which took his life, that of his wife, Sharon; his son, Scott; and his daughter, Linda.

Like most of you I have known JERRY for approximately 4 years. He was an extremely resourceful Member of Congress, very human and friendly and he had a tremendous following in his district, the Sixth District of Missouri. I have had occasion to visit with him in his district and participate in his many programs designed to make the workings of Congress more understandable to his constituents. It was one of the most professional programs that I have ever seen. It was an educational program which demonstrated not only his political skill and understanding of people but even more his genuine concern for their well-being.

He came from one small section of northwest Missouri. His life was a classic rags-to-riches story. Born not far from Chillicothe, Mo., in 1937, he worked with his father, Charley, to develop one of the largest and most successful cattle-raising ventures in that State or any State.

Those who knew him best, other farmers and ranchers in that area, credit JERRY LITTON with transforming cattle breeding into a highly developed science.

He brought the same intelligence, energy, and hard work into his love of politics. He was fond of telling the story of how one spring day in 1956, as a 19-year-old Missouri farm boy, he had an appointment with former President Harry S Truman. He was there to extend an invitation to Mr. Truman to address the 1957 National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Their common interest in politics stretched a 15-minute appointment into a 2-hour visit. As JERRY LITTON would recall, the former President said:

If you want to get into politics, you can do it as I did and go from precinct to President or you can prove yourself in another field and then seek a higher office the first time around.

Harry Truman was proud of his courthouse to White House journey but there were other ways to enter into politics and seek higher office.

JERRY LITTON was a journalism graduate of the University of Missouri and became well known in the northwest part of the State through a television interview program called "Dialogue With Litton." In 1972 JERRY LITTON won his first campaign race for the House of Representatives from the Sixth District. He was reelected in 1974 by even a larger margin.

One of the great ironies of his death was that he had just swept to an upset victory in a four-man race for the nomination for the U.S. Senate from Missouri. Unofficial and incomplete returns showed JERRY LITTON winning better than 50 percent of the four-way primary vote for the U.S. Senate.

Death is an inevitable process. It has been said, "He whom the Gods love dies young, while he is in health, has his senses, and his judgment sound."

JERRY had just won the most tremendous victory of his political life. He was a strong individual who was likely to go on to even further successes. His death is one of the most tragic things that has happened since I became a Member of Congress 30 years ago. As his colleague and competitor, Representative Symington said when the news reached him: "It was a time for grief and nothing else."

We will miss him greatly. His contributions in Congress were already significant and he gave every promise of great contributions to come.

Life can be short, tragedy can come quickly. Let us take the example given to us by this outstanding young Congressman and attempt to contribute more and do better in terms of our contribution to the legislative process and the integrity of our country's Government.

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend and colleague, the Honorable JERRY LITTON. The terrible tragedy which took the life of this distinguished gentleman from Missouri was all the

more shocking in that he was on his way to victory in a primary election contest for the U.S. Senate which he entered with his usual zeal and enthusiasm.

What is even more tragic is that his entire family fell with him in the plane crash which also took the lives of two others. How can fate be so cruel to a family that has done so much for the people of Missouri and our Nation as a whole over these 4 years?

After one term in office, his colleagues on the Committee on Agriculture recognized his ability and devotion to duty, and duly appointed him as chairman of the Subcommittee on Forestry. At 39 years of age, he was in the prime of his life, emerging as a bright star on the national political scene.

As a successful cattle rancher and farmer, JERRY was close to the soil, having a deep respect for the wonders of nature. His commitment of time and energy to family, friends, the community, and his constituency will certainly live on and will long be remembered by all those who knew and loved him.

He was a man who possessed this innate ability "to bring out the most and best in all of us," and I am sure you will all agree that these hallowed Halls will not be the same without JERRY LITTON, Member of Congress from Missouri.

Mr. GINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep personal grief at the recent death of our colleague, JERRY LITTON, together with his wife, two children, and his pilot and his pilot's son.

I have searched for the words to adequately reflect the depth of my feeling about this loss, but I cannot find them. The news of the airplane crash is still frozen in my mind as some kind of incomprehensible nightmare.

I met JERRY LITTON shortly after I came to Congress in 1973. As fellow freshmen, we spent a good deal of time together as we journeyed through the hectic process of learning more about the task of serving as Members of Congress. My staff developed friendships with the Litton staff, and I was privileged to travel with JERRY to Missouri one weekend to speak to his Congressional Club.

JERRY LITTON was a man driven by some unquenchable inner flame that led him to devote his entire energy to public service.

His interest was first, last, and always to make his district, his State, and his Nation a better place for all citizens. He was unique because this dedication was matched with a capacity for work that was almost beyond comprehension.

JERRY was an innovator—a man who always sought a new answer to problems that others had abandoned as insoluble. He was dedicated to bolstering our Nation's agricultural system. He devised one of the most effective constituent opinion survey systems that I have ever seen. He was a man who listened to the voice of his people, and yet he was a man who was also a natural born leader. He had confidence in himself, and he knew how to inspire others to have faith in themselves as well.

When I think of JERRY, I think of a man who personified life. I think of a man who had turned the full force of his energy to a new political objective, only to have his victory snuffed out in a matter of seconds.

We search for lessons at times like these. We turn to God and seek answers that are beyond our understanding. We are reminded of the transitory nature of life, and that in our lives we are the stewards of only a few fleeting moments of human history.

If any thoughts can be of comfort at a time of sadness such as this, it should be that JERRY LITTON could look back on a life and on a career in public service in which no moment was wasted. He lived life to the fullest. He has left a mark on his State and on the Congress that will be a monument for years to come. There is no greater tribute we could give than the record that JERRY has made himself.

On behalf of myself, Mrs. Ginn, and my staff, I express my deepest sympathies to the Litton and Summerville families.

Mr. JONES of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I share the feeling of remorse at the tragic loss of our colleague, the honorable JERRY LITTON of Missouri, and his family.

The intelligence and drive which made JERRY a national officer in the Future Farmers of America as a young man and which later made him a personal fortune in the cattle business also made him a forceful and effective Member of this body.

JERRY'S views were respected far beyond the limits of his own congressional district, particularly in agricultural matters. In

fact, I accompanied him on one trip to Memphis, Tenn., where he was a well-received guest speaker at the Southern Farm Forum.

He was a man of integrity and good will, and he was a scrapper. It is sad that he never had the chance to savor the taste of his victory in his primary race for the Senate nomination.

The people of Missouri and the United States have lost an outstanding public servant, and we shall sorely miss him in the Halls of Congress.

Mr. HUNGATE. Mr. Speaker, to help fully appreciate the accomplishments of JERRY LITTON, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues an article which appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch giving some of the highlights of his remarkable career:

JERRY LITTON: A STORY OF RAGS TO RICHES

(By Richard K. Weil, Jr.)

JERRY LON LITTON, the millionaire United States Representative killed in a plane crash last night, devoted virtually every waking moment to politics and government.

When he was working on legislation or constituent business in the House, he would gulp down meals in 5 or 10 minutes and sleep less than 6 hours a night. A non-drinker, he shunned Washington's cocktail party circuit. He drove his staff mercilessly, although few could keep his hours.

In his campaign for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate, LITTON started out a year ago more than 25 percentage points behind his colleague, Representative James W. Symington of Ladue, in the polls.

But exactly one week before yesterday's primary, LITTON told reporters he was ahead. "After eating dust for a year, it sure is good to breathe that fresh air out front," the 39-year-old legislator had exulted.

At 8:45 last night, just before leaving his parents' home in Chillicothe for the local airport, he confided over the telephone, "Everything's fallen together beautifully. We're going to win it easily."

But his chartered plane to Kansas City crashed, and he died before he could taste his greatest triumph.

JERRY LITTON'S life was a classic rags-to-riches story. He was born May 12, 1937, in a small house without plumbing or electricity in rural Lock Springs, not far from Chillicothe.

His father, Charley Litton, now 68, suffered a series of crippling accidents as a young farmer that left him unable to work for several years. Charley's wife Mildred helped out by selling milk from their 11 cows.

In 1945, the Litton house burned to the ground. In 1946, Charley Litton

turned to raising hogs only to have his herd wiped out by a respiratory disease. The family remained impoverished.

In contrast, JERRY showed an early ability to succeed at almost everything he tried.

As a youth, he worked as a farmer, on land he leased himself, and as a radio announcer. He had saved $15,000 by the time he graduated from Chillicothe High School.

In high school and as an agriculture journalism student at the University of Missouri at Columbia, he rose steadily in the Future Farmers of America organization, first becoming Missouri president and later national secretary, the top student office.

He delivered speeches all over the country. For one 2-week swing through Colorado, when he was a college student, LITTON was paid $2,850 in fees—enough for him to trade in his jalopy for a pink Ford Thunderbird automobile the day he returned to Missouri.

When he was still at the university, LITTON persuaded his father to invest in Charolais cattle, an old French breed once used for work as well as production of meat and milk. For that purpose, they took out a $20,000 loan.

After JERRY graduated from college, the Littons purchased 500 acres just north of Chillicothe, which became their Litton Charolais Ranch.

Many ranchers credit LITTON with having turned the art of cattle breeding into a highly developed science. He installed a computer at the ranch and used it to determine which animals were genetically superior and how they should be bred. As a result, Litton cattle broke all sorts of records for weight, progeny, and quality of beef. They were sold for high prices. A half interest in one bull sold for $168,000.

Throughout it all, LITTON reaped lavish publicity. He knew how to court the press, and he put out his own magazine. Bull-O-Gram, that was closely read by cattlemen all over the country. Many of these readers wound up contributing to LITTON's congressional campaigns.

Early in 1974, JERRY LITTON, after 1 year in Congress, and his father sold their ranch to an Arizona cattle family for $3,800,000. LITTON said that in the wake of Watergate he wanted to prove he had no conflicts of interest. His money was put into a blind trust.

LITTON was particularly sensitive to criticism that as a Member of Congress he had received speaking fees from agricultural groups. He said his fees dropped considerably after he became a Representative.

But more important, he said, "By selling our ranch rather than holding on to it, we gave up a huge amount in taxes. If I'm willing to make a sacrifice like that, isn't it pretty obvious that a speaking fee isn't going to sway my vote?"

LITTON traced his devotion to politics to a 1957 meeting he had with the late President Harry S Truman. But some who knew LITTON liked to joke that his political instincts went back to the day he was born.

In 1960, LITTON was president of Youth for Symington, a 38-State organization devoted to helping Senator Stuart Symington win the Democratic Presidential nomination. LITTON directed 600 volunteers in Los Angeles at the Democratic National Convention. But Symington lost out to John F. Kennedy.

When LITTON decided to take the plunge for the vacant Sixth District congressional seat in 1972, the farm boy who had made a fortune was a decided underdog in the primary behind Charles Broomfield, then a State representative from North Kansas City, and State senator Truman E. Wilson of St. Joseph.

The situation paralleled this year's Senate primary where LITTON at the beginning was conceded strength in rural areas but was given little chance of building enough support in the St. Louis area to win.

In the 1972 campaign, LITTON canvassed the huge Sixth District. He, his wife Sharon, and—when school was out— their two children politicked out of a well-equipped camper.

Broomfield said of LITTON in retrospect: "He told me early in the campaign exactly how he was going to beat me. But I didn't believe him until he did it."

In the final election, LITTON won 54.6 percent of the vote against Russell Sloan, a Conservative-Republican. LITTON won reelection in 1974 with 78.9 percent against token opposition.

Shortly after his election, LITTON made national news when he vociferously opposed a 1-week beef boycott engineered by consumer organizations across the country.

LITTON said that consumer boycotts and the administration's freeze on the price of beef were self-defeating. They made farmers who raise cattle on a 2-year cycle curtail beef production, perpetuating the shortages and the high prices, LITTON said.

He worked in Congress to bring farmers and urban consumers together saying: "What is good for the consumer is good for the farmer and vice versa."

Perhaps LITTON's most important activity in Congress stemmed from his discovery in 1973 that President Richard M. Nixon had signed an Executive order allowing the Secretary of Agriculture free rein to examine the income tax returns of the Nation's 3,000,000 farmers.

LITTON opposed the move as an invasion of privacy, and the order was suspended temporarily. But as events connected with Watergate unfolded, it became obvious that the Nixon White House was making an even broader effort to gain access to individual Internal Revenue Service records.

LITTON introduced a bill to change IRS regulations and denying access of Federal agencies, including the White House, to individual returns.

But he didn't get very far until 1975 when Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (R.-Conn.), joined him in sponsoring the legislation.

The lesson was not lost on LITTON, who commented often, "As a Congressman (Representative) I just don't have the clout that a Senator does."

LITTON was a genius at getting publicity. He was extremely well-informed on issues, and he had an Associated Press machine installed in his office, enabling him to give reporters instant reaction to news events.

Many of his colleagues in the Missouri congressional delegation confided their dislike for him. They viewed him as something of a publicity hog.

Another irritant to politicians was LITTON's tendency to go off in his own direction, sometimes appearing disloyal in the eyes of fellow Democrats. In 1972, he refused to endorse George McGovern, the party nominee for President, contending that McGovern's policies were too radical. This year, he came

out for Jimmy Carter for the Presidential nomination on the same weekend that Senator Thomas F. Eagleton and other Missouri Democrats had decided to stick to an uncommitted stance.

But as much as he sometimes rankled the political professionals, out-State voters seemed to love LITTON's independence.

In March 1973, LITTON as a freshman Member of Congress began monthly meetings with constituents that were later to become famous across most of Missouri under the name, "Dialogue With Litton."

It was a theater-in-the-round forum at which residents of northwestern Missouri would question LITTON and a prominent guest from Washington.

Starting in March 1974, the 2-hour sessions were recorded on video tape and then edited down to 30-minute versions that were carried free by several Missouri television stations as an entertaining way of fulfilling their public-service time requirements.

LITTON described "Dialogue" as a way of "bringing Government to the people."

By bringing in famous guests such as Carter, Representative Morris K. Udall, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, and Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, LITTON built a large following for the forums.

Sometimes as many as 1,700 attended, often on pro football Sundays.

But detractors said the television show constituted free advertising for future political campaigns. LITTON made no attempt to dispute that.

LITTON entered this year's race for Senator with characteristic optimism despite seemingly heavy odds against him.

His round-the-clock campaigning was important, of course. But it is questionable whether LITTON could have achieved last night's victory without the help of the Supreme Court.

In January, the Court struck down a post-Watergate statute setting limits on campaign expenditures. The limit a candidate could spend on a primary in Missouri was about $350,000.

With the spending ceiling lifted, LITTON was able to mount his $950,000 campaign that included lavish television advertising in the St. Louis area.

But money alone could not have won the Senate primary. LITTON was a dynamo with incredible stamina. His plan last night had been to attend a victory party in Kansas City and then fly across the State to a second party at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis.

"I won't get to bed tonight," he said in his last interview, "because I plan to be out at the General Motors plant gates to shake hands at 5:15 in the morning."

Mr. HUNGATE. Mr. Speaker, Missouri is not only the home of great politicians like the late JERRY LITTON, but also the home of great writers such as Mark Twain, and I think this is shown in the many tributes to JERRY LITTON.

The articles follow:

A Tribute to Jerry Litton

(By State Representative Richard DeCoster)

Usual election eve jubilation was dampened, practically nullified, by the tragic news from Chillicothe just as the first meaningful election returns started to come in. I know I've been unable to dismiss the incident from my mind, and the words that keep recurring over and over are the words of Job. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away."

Jerry Litton made more of a mark on this old world in his brief lifetime than most of us will make if allotted our full three score years and ten. He and his family represent the best of America, the best of humankind. As politicians go, he was not a carper but a rectifier. He worked to make right those things he perceived to be wrong.

Truly the Littons gave their lives for their fellow man. They had already acquired enough worldly wealth to keep them comfortable for the remainder of their lives. They could have been sitting back comfortably that Tuesday evening in their easy chairs bored with the interruption of their favorite program with those silly election returns. They could have joined the chorus, "It doesn't make any difference who's elected, they are all a bunch of crooks." They could have been vacationing in the mountains saying, "My vote doesn't count". But they weren't. As a family they were about the business of trying to make this a better place for their fellow man, especially for those less fortunate than themselves.

This State, this Nation, this world is a better place as a result of the Littons having been a part of them. They leave a shining example for others to emulate.

[From Moberly (Mo.) Monitor-Index and Evening Democrat, Aug. 11, 1976]

Newsman's Ode to Litton

(By Mark Holland)

A young man they had never seen before stepped out of the mass of newspaper, radio, television, and news services people at the Litton family funeral Friday in Chillicothe, tapped on the window of a car arriving near the church door and silently handed a folded bit of paper to Clifford Summerville, father of Mrs. Sharon Litton and the grandfather of Scott and Linda.

The Summerville and Litton families share that which was written by the newsman, a stranger.

ODE TO JERRY LITTON

Sitting by the hearse of Jerry Litton • • •
I never knew the man
Yet by the tears, the embrace, the melancholy,
He was a part of me and I a part of him
He was the rolling hills of Missouri
Its flowing rivers
Its children skipping stones across the rivers
Its townfolk bustling to work; bustling back home again

Its crops reaching toward the sun
like fingers reaching to the skies
like JERRY LITTON reaching for Heaven,
Or Heaven reaching to him
The grasp had finally come
a direct line from Missouri, to who knows where
by way of JERRY our grassroots connection * * *
With him will be his wife
With him their children and our souls

[From St. Charles (Mo.) Banner-News, Aug. 5, 1976]

AIDE RECALLS JERRY LITTON'S LAST DAY

(By Matt Krueger)

(Matt Krueger, a 22-year-old political science graduate student at the University of Missouri-Columbia, spent the last 3 months traveling with JERRY LITTON every day as his personal aide. Wednesday, he gave this account of his last day with the Litton family on Tuesday.)

CHILLICOTHE, MO.—We were really excited on Tuesday. We were in St. Joe (St. Joseph) early in the day; went over to the newspaper, hit the shopping centers and tried to get people out to vote. It seems like everybody we talked to said they had already voted and they had voted for JERRY.

JERRY kept saying that everyone got behind him and he just couldn't believe it. We had known 2 or 3 weeks that there was every indication we would win.

We drove back to Chillicothe from St. Joe earlier than anticipated; drove out to the ranch, went in and had ice cream and cake and everything. JERRY had me hook him up to an inhalator device for treating an inflammation in his throat because he had gotten a cold over the weekend. I think he was pretty well over the cold, but it was a psychological sort of thing. He wanted his vocal chords to be ready.

Then he went into the bedroom about 4:30 (p.m.) and slept until 7:15. Sherry (LITTON's wife, Sharon) woke him up and let him talk on the phone. I talked to Sherry and explained the arrangements and I said, "See you in Kansas City." That was the last time I saw her.

I drove (family friends) Maxine Lamb and her husband Paul (manager of the Litton ranch) down to campaign headquarters.

I was playing with Scott Tuesday afternoon. Scott (LITTON's 12-year-old son) was really excited and everything. He was excited about taking a plane ride. We were sitting in front of a TV and he had a friend over. We were joking about how all the girls in Chillicothe thought Scott was so cute because his dad was running for Senator.

The family was extremely close. JERRY and his dad worked together. They prospered and played together. He called his mom and dad just about every day to touch base. They're tremendously strong people. They're (his parents) going

to take it pretty hard I think. Linda (Litton's daughter) was 13. She was a cutie, just like her mom.

I think the thing Jerry was really concerned with Tuesday was how strong the Democratic ticket would be in Missouri in November with (Jimmy) Carter at the head of the ticket. He was really looking forward to campaigning against (GOP Senate candidate John) Danforth. He thought it would be a very issues oriented campaign.

See, I was supposed to be on that plane. I was making all the arrangements. That was my job.

I talked to Sherry about 6:30 a.m. and she told me Charley and Mildred (Litton's parents) had already left. That left seven of us and I didn't think it would be a good idea to put that many on the plane. I had Charley's car and I said I'll just drive Maxine and Paul down to Kansas City.

We got to Kansas City close to 9:30. I called my grandmother to tell her I had returned safely because we had been gone 3 days. We were there at the campaign headquarters. We were taking phone calls and getting results. Then John Ashford came in and made the announcement.

I jumped into a campaign car and came up here. We were listening to the radio. They announced that Litton was declared the winner. That kind of hit me. But there was no time to get emotional last night. It hasn't hit me yet.

We became close friends in that time we were traveling together. I don't know how many times we were at plant gates at 5 a.m. and then we were driving in the car late at night by ourselves. He confided in me and I confided some things in him. I never met a more personable guy. He kind of reminded me of Bobby Kennedy almost. There was just a charisma about him.

I don't know how hokey it sounds, but he just believed in the people of Missouri. He believed in the people and felt that he had a message to communicate.

[From the LaBelle (Mo.) Star, Aug. 11, 1976]

Litton Stood Tall With Lewis Countians

(By Joan Searle)

It was 9:45 p.m. on Sunday, July 18. A Cadillac drove into the dark driveway at the Lewis County Fairgrounds. The driver said, "I have Litton here." The gatekeeper flashed a light into the passengers' faces until it stopped on a familiar face in the front seat of the car. Litton said, "Yes, that's me!" The keeper said, "Go on; your're late!" The sedan sped on to reach the grandstand where nearly 700 anxious people of various political affiliations had been waiting for his appearance since 8:30.

It had been over 2 hours since the emcee had walked on stage and announced that Jerry Litton would be late, due to stops he had made at events in four different towns throughout the afternoon. He said that an airplane had been sent to Monroe City to transport Litton to Lewistown and that upon arrival, the plane would fly over the fairgrounds before landing at the airport. Then the

emcee introduced the LaBelle American Legion Post, Auxiliary and cast of 25 performers, who started the evening with a bicentennial program of narration, song, and comedy, entitled, "The American Patriots."

At 8:30, the emcee introduced the Durham Community Singers who presented an hour long program of gospel music. At 9:30, some of the people gave up hope of seeing LITTON and started leaving the fairgrounds. Suddenly, an airplane could be heard and someone in the audience shouted, "There he comes now!" Everyone looked skyward as the plane with green and red flashing lights flew directly over the grandstand area while the Durham Community Singers were presenting an inspirational gospel selection, "Stepping on the Clouds."

Approximately 10 minutes or less passed, before LITTON, tall and blonde and dressed in a light colored suit, jumped out of the car and hurried up on stage in front of the waiting throng. He told a joke and the people commenced laughing. He expressed ideas for some time and somehow as one watched, it became apparent that here is a man with great promise, a man who is capable of reaching a much higher position than the Senate seat, if he chose to reach that high. He talked freely about different subjects with complete knowledge of each and he did not have references. His appearance was the same as was on his show, "Dialogue With Litton" only he was not sitting in a swivel chair, but standing. After what seemed a short time, a microphone was placed in front of the audience and LITTON invited them to ask questions. Immediately, a man stepped forward and from then on, both men and women came to the microphone and asked questions on varied subjects. With self assurance, he answered them in an articulate manner. He had an excellent sense of humor and demonstrated his wit with the audience. After all, he had received the best of training for a man of his position, as he was a graduate of the University of Missouri in journalism. He had participated in many debates and most of the members of the Future Farmers of America in Missouri High Schools are aware of the fact that LITTON was national secretary of the FFA in his earlier years.

LITTON, completing his second 2-year term in the House of Representatives, had achieved wide recognition and popularity during his time in Congress. As a former farmer and cattleman, he was one of the most knowledgeable Members of Congress on agricultural matters and exerted great influence as a member of the House Agriculture Committee. LITTON started his farming and cattle operation on borrowed capital in the 1950's. His herd rose to prominence with the early growth of the Charolais breed and his father who was a Hereford breeder, joined him in the Charolais venture. In January 1974, LITTON and his father sold the Litton Charolais Ranch and cattle herd for $3.8 million. LITTON sold the business because of demands on his time as Congressman and to avoid possible conflict of interest. A home on the farm was retained by the Littons for their use on vacations from Washington.

After the dialogue, LITTON came off the stage and started shaking hands with men, women and children, joking and laughing with some and answering questions for others. One reporter asked him to pose for a picture to which he graciously consented. One surprise about the candidate, children were asking questions of him while shaking his hand. This was a TV star and they could

understand him. One high school student asked, "How old are you?" "39", replied LITTON.

As persons of all professions were greeting the Congressman, it seemed that LITTON was already a U.S. Senator and one only had to wait for the election to confirm the results. Here was a former farmer and now a millionaire and Congressman staying around until the last person wandered off in the direction of home. He was not afraid of being alone. LITTON climbed back into the sedan and the group left the fairgrounds for the airport at Lewistown, where he boarded the plane and headed to another destination.

A little over 2 weeks passed since he had been to Lewis County to help make the Fair a little more memorable. On Tuesday, August 3, LITTON and his family, pilot and son boarded a twin-engine plane at Chillicothe to wing their way to his election headquarters in Kansas City, to hopefully celebrate a senatorial victory. The engine started and the plane raced down the runway. Soon the passengers were off of the ground and heading skyward into the darkness.

It was 9:15 p.m. Suddenly a light flashed and LITTON said, "Yes, that's me!" The Gatekeeper said, "Come in; you're early!"

Proceedings in the Senate

WEDNESDAY, *August 4, 1976.*

Mr. EAGLETON. Mr. President, I send to the desk a resolution, on behalf of myself and the senior Senator from Missouri (Mr. Symington), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

SENATE RESOLUTION 509

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Honorable JERRY L. LITTON, late a Representative from the State of Missouri.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative.

Mr. HUGH SCOTT. Mr. President, the hearts of all of us are heavy at this tremendously tragic event in which victory is thwarted by the Dark Angel.

This sort of thing moves the hearts of people even more than the daily tragedies which afflict humankind.

On behalf of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, I join in expressing our deep sympathy for the relatives, friends, and admirers affected by the tragic death of this family, the pilot, and the pilot's son aboard the plane.

I add my voice to that of the distinguished Senator from Missouri in urging immediate action upon the resolution.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I join in the remarks of the distinguished Republican leader. I think he speaks for all of us.

I know that all of us on this side of the aisle join those on the other side in extending to the people of Missouri and to the Litton family—that part which remains—our deepest sympathy and condolences.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, as someone who comes from a State adjoining Missouri, I am especially touched by this tragic happening.

Representative LITTON made many outstanding contributions, but I will mention particularly what he meant to the agricultural community of America. He was an outstanding farmer in his own right, and he made many contributions in reference to legislation. He and the junior Senator from Nebraska were active in promoting the interests of the American Agricultural Council.

I extend to his family, those remaining, our deepest sympathy in this tragic happening.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it was with a sense of shock and deep feeling of sadness that I learned of the untimely death of Representative JERRY LITTON and his family. At the age of 39, JERRY LITTON looked forward to an extended career in politics and Government service.

He had an admirable record as a Member of Congress and was known as a hard-working and dedicated man of honesty and integrity.

We cannot comprehend the magnitude of the tragedy, but our hearts and prayers go out to the citizens of Missouri and particularly to the families and friends of the Littons and the Rupps.

Mr. EAGLETON. Mr. President, I should like to read at this time a brief statement from my senior colleague, the senior Senator from Missouri, Senator Stuart Symington, who phoned this statement to me a few moments ago. He says:

> I am terribly shocked and saddened by the incredible news of the death of JERRY LITTON and his family. He will be remembered forever as an able and courageous public servant with a host of friends.

My relationship with him goes back to 1960 when he and his wife worked their hearts out in my campaign for the Presidential nomination.

To their parents and all of their relatives, one can only express deepest sympathy for the loss of this great Missourian and his family.

Mr. President, I wish to say a few brief words for myself with respect to this very tragic occurrence.

Life has its tragedies and its ironies. At the very time, which was, I suppose, the moment of the greatest joy that JERRY LITTON had ever known, as he was on the verge of a dramatic and sweeping victory of landslide proportions, he and his wife and their two children boarded a plane in Chillicothe, Mo., to fly to a victory celebration in Kansas City. A crash occurred. The entire Litton family—father, mother, and two children—were killed, along with the pilot and his son.

JERRY LITTON was an only child. His parents had great pride in their talented son. As the Senator from Nebraska has pointed out, JERRY LITTON was a self-made success of considerable proportions. He was proud of his heritage as a farmer. He was truly a son of the soil. The Litton farm near Chillicothe was a show place, a show place created with the considerable skills which JERRY LITTON possessed in great abundance.

In 1972 he entered elective politics. He pursued this new career with the same drive, the same energy, the same imaginativeness he had demonstrated in farming. I know of no Member of the House of Representatives who maintained a closer relationship with his constituents. The people of the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri knew that JERRY LITTON was their—and I mean t-h-e-i-r—spokesman.

A year ago or so, JERRY LITTON embarked on a new political journey. Once again, the energy, the drive, the skill he possessed were brought into action. It all culminated into a victory of massive proportions—a victory which in an instant became shrouded in death.

Mr. President, I doubt if mortal man will ever be able to fully comprehend the mysterious workings of our Lord. It is to our Lord that the souls of the four Littons are commended. I am confident that they will receive His tenderest mercies.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to unanimously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair appoints the Senators from Missouri (Mr. Symington and Mr. Eagleton) to represent the Senate to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Mr. WEICKER. Mr. President, early this morning I heard the news of the tragic death of Representative JERRY LITTON, who was killed last evening in an airplane accident, as he left to celebrate the greatest political victory of his impressive career.

My association with Representative LITTON began more than 2 years ago, when we joined forces in an effort to pass legislation to protect the confidentiality of tax returns. Through his untiring efforts, more than half of the membership of the House of Representatives cosponsored our legislation. During this time, I was enormously impressed with his perseverance on behalf of the principles and ideals upon which our Nation was founded and prospers.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of this dedicated public servant. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the relatives and friends he leaves behind.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, if there be no further business to come before the Senate, I move, in accordance with the previous order, and pursuant to Senate Resolution 509, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative from Missouri, that the Senate stand in recess until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The motion was agreed to; and, at 11:15 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Thursday, August 5, 1976, at 9 a.m.

FLARE

Memorial services held in UGG

[redacted]

3 1262 01049 2683

[redacted]

FLARE
31262010492683